SWMI GOAL

To ensure that the Commonwealth's abundant water resources are protected and sustainably managed for habitat protection and economic development.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Science-based taxonomy of 1400 rivers and streams

- Streamflow criteria based on science

- Resolution of Safe Yield

- Proposed package marries science to a fair, carefully calibrated, effective public policy

- Will maintain the healthy streams, and improve degraded ones over time

COMPONENTS

- Streamflow criteria

- Safe Yield

- Modifications to existing standard permit conditions

- Pilots

- Funding

STREAMFLOW AND SAFE YIELD

- Streamflow criteria govern the allocation. Nimble, sub-basin, seasonal

- Safe yield provides a backstop, ultimate safeguard

- If get streamflow right, will not need safe yield to meet the goal, though it will play a role in certain basins

STREAMFLOW PRINCIPLES

- Water withdrawal responsible for a portion of problem; science allows us to pinpoint that portion
- Level of review and mitigation obligation vary, based upon
  - amount of increase
  - impact of withdrawal
  - existing aquatic health
- Mitigation is commensurate with impact
- Mitigation considers cost and efficacy
- Science not infallible—categories are a rebuttable presumption

SAFE YIELD

- New SY is statistically derived
- It provides a backstop
- Allocations are greater than proposed SY in 2 Basins, but there is a plan for addressing those basins
- Formula shows proposed SY above allocations in many basins, but language ensures that SY in these cases is not misconstrued

PILOTS

- Critical Element
- Synchronize with rule-writing
- 4 Sub-basins
- Topics
  - Mitigation
  - Rebutting presumption
  - Costs
  - Benefits

CONCLUSION

- Generational responsibility to get this right
- Successful conclusion would place SWMI in ranks of wetlands regulations of 1983, chapter 91 regulations of 1989, riverfront regulations of mid-1990's
- Find a consensus to resolve a longstanding "water war"
- Model for the nation in using science to develop a regulatory framework